

RYA Coastal Skipper Practical



Pre-course requirements:

- 2 days experience as skipper of a yacht
- 15 days at sea
- 300 miles
- 8 night hours
- RYA Yachtmaster/Coastal Skipper Shorebased course or equivalent

What you will learn:

- Passage Planning, including a consideration of capability of yacht, weather, ports of refuge, navigation, publications required and strategy
- Preparation for sea, leadership skills, safety briefing, engine checks, safety equipment, engine checks
- Pilotage planning with consideration of surroundings, transits, buoyage, harbor regulations, tidal considerations, clearing bearings
- Advanced Boat Handling under sail and power, use the sails to control the yacht in a confined area
- Emergency Situations, man overboard under sail, understanding of actions to be taken when abandoning ship
- Adverse Weather Conditions, navigate in restricted visibility

After this course you can:

- Skipper a yacht bareboat on coastal passages by day and night
- Join one of our flotillas as the main skipper
- Practice your new skills on a 2-day weekend sailing immediately after your 5- day course
- Gain more practice on one of our tidal or non-tidal milebuilders

Next Steps:

- Progress to RYA Yachtmaster/Coastal Skipper Certificate of Competence
- Get your certificate commercially endorsed
- Consider working in the Yachting Industry
- Obtain a Marine Radio Certificate

RYA Coastal Skipper Practical Course

For who?

This course is a more challenging trip for those who want to skipper a yacht up to 15m by day and night in all types of weather.

RYA requirements: minimum 15 days at sea, 300 nautical miles, 2 days as skipper of a yacht without supervision, 8-night hours.

You must be a competent sailor and your time on board should have included plenty of sailing on all points of sail. Motor-sailing is not sufficient experience. RYA Day Skipper course (or similar qualification) is ideal previous experience + further sailing weeks ("free sailing") such as flotillas, mile-building or experience trips.

Required theoretical knowledge:

- RYA Yachtmaster/Coastal Skipper Shorebased course.
- Be familiar with: navigation, chart work, collision regulations, buoyage, lights, meteorology, safety and seamanship.

Preparation

Refresh your sailing knowledge and/or experience if it has been a while to not spend time during your course re-familiarising yourself with basics. Revise the materials before the start of the course (IRPCS, lights, buoyage...). If you have learned theory in another language, we recommend you to study the materials in English for all nautical terminology.

Need a chance to get back into your sailor mindset? We have refresher weekend courses giving you 26h on a yacht right before your Day Skipper course.

Complete your Yachtmaster/Coastal Skipper Shorebased theory course! You have two options:

- Online in your time (50-hour course) via Urban Truant or Navathome.
- Offline in our classroom for 5 days during our Yachtmaster Shorebased theory weeks.

A VHF radio course might also be helpful. The Marine Radio Certificate is a must if you would like to bareboat charter or take the Coastal Skipper exam.

During the course

Learning goal: improve your boat-handling and gain more challenging passage planning skills. You will be able to practical manoeuvres under both power and sail, including Man Overboard drill, coming alongside, and manoeuvring in confined spaces. You will learn how to trim sails in details and if the weather is suitable, to use a cruising chute. You will be expected to undertake longer passages (may include night sail in charge without supervision).

Planning:

17:00 on starting date: meeting your crew at our office. Access the yachts, where you will be given a tour of the space and a chance to settle in your cabin. Discuss with instructor the plans for the week, have a first dinner on shore, and sleep on board.

First morning: Safety briefing, layout of yacht controls, engine start/stop, navigation equipment, sail sheets, etc.

First day: The aim is for the instructor to find out what you know, your strengths and what needs to be worked on. You will be expected to skipper the yacht, navigate, take charge of the crew, and show your theoretical knowledge.

Other days: Around our base area, you will be able to deal with longer passages and sail in stronger winds (than the Day Skipper candidates). You will practical all manoeuvres and show that you can handle the boat in any conditions. Each day will be another destination (depending on weather and time). You will also undertake a night sail (min 4h) and will pilot the yacht for part of this time (demonstrate your knowledge and practice identifying lights on vessels and on land). You will practice both hand-bearing compass and modern equipment (GPS plotter).

Last day: You will get a debrief of your performance and advice from the instructor. If you achieved all tasks of the syllabus, you will be awarded your RYA Coastal Skipper Practical certificate. We will all have a feedback moment when getting back to the base before ending the course at 17:00 on the fifth day.

RYA Coastal Skipper Practical Course

What is provided?

The RYA Yachtmaster Course notes: will help you assimilate the materials learn during the practical (covers Coastal Skipper and Yachtmaster practical syllabus).

An RYA Logbook: to record your miles and the details of your experience.

During group course: breakfast and lunches on board, enough water for the trip, coffee&tea, basic seasoning condiments, and extra money for extra groceries.

Yacht comfort: beddings, towels, first aid kit, coffee machine and milk foamer, dish soaps, snorkelling kits, inverter and bluetooth radio.

All our yachts are fully coded for commercial use and meet both the Royal Yachting Association and Hellenic Registry Standards for safety equipment, which are amongst the highest in the world.

Extras

A few weeks before the start of your course we will provide you with a packing list.

Unless your hands are used to physical work, sailing gloves might help protect your hands when using the ropes. We recommend using a pair of sailing gloves with open-ended fingers (available to buy at our office for 20€).

We recommend a budget of 20-30€ a night for dinners and drinks ashore.

Beach towels if you wish to swim (towels provided on board are shower towels).

Please ensure that you are covered by holiday/travel insurance that covers sailing. In case of injury, medical assistance or transportation home might be required. You will not be sailing more than 10miles offshore.

Assessment and Certification

There is no written examination during the practical course, your instructor will continuously assess your performance along the week. He will decide if you are competent and safely sailing. If awarded the Coastal Skipper Practical course, you can charter a yacht (accepted by most companies) as it shows that you have sufficient knowledge to skipper a yacht on coastal or offshore passages by day or night. It also certifies that your practical ability is at a level where you could take the RYA Coastal Skipper examination.

The RYA specifies that certificates of satisfactory completion must not be awarded to those who:

- Are adversely affected by seasickness to the extent that their ability to skipper a yacht is reduced to a dangerously low level
- Are unable to demonstrate sufficient ability in basic seamanship, navigation, and yacht handling to appreciate the techniques and skills required of a yacht skipper
- Demonstrate a lack of understanding of any part of the syllabus to the extent that it would be dangerous for them to go to sea as the skipper of a yacht

RYA/MCA Coastal Certificate of Competence

After the RYA Coastal Skipper Practical course you can get an official Certificate of Competence that can be used for commercial purposes. This certificate is obtained by examination only. The examination is carried out by an independent Examiner. We offer Yachtmaster/Coastal Skipper preparatory courses followed by examination every couple of months.

Before you can be issued with an RYA/MCA Coastal Skipper Certificate of Competence you must have the following:

Restricted (VHF only) Radio Operator's certificate
First Aid certificate

Within the past 10 years you must have completed appropriate sea-time. If you meet our pre-requisites for the practical course, you will have enough sea time.

RYA Coastal Skipper Practical Course

Who will be on board?

There will be a maximum of 5 students of each yacht, according to the RYA regulations. Other students might follow the same course or a higher level. A mix of students allows everyone to fulfil their respective syllabus while showing you what the next course for you could be!

The instructor on board will be a commercially endorsed RYA Yachtmaster and he/she will also have an RYA instructor's certificate and be qualified to teach sailing. Instructors are selected for their personality and teaching skills, to provide a happy, safe and encouraging environment on board!

A Holiday Feeling?

During this course, you will also have relaxation time: swimming, snorkelling, sight-seeing! You will have dinners ashore in local tavernas and socialise with other crews.

Despite enjoying fun times, we prohibit alcohol while onboard to stay sober while at sea. You are welcome to have a drink in the evenings! Smoking is forbidden below decks.

Contact

We hope that all is clear regarding following a RYA Coastal Skipper Practical Course at our school. For more course details please refer to the [RYA website](#).

If you would like to proceed with booking a course, get back via email to our proposal!

We hope to see you soon on board.

